

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

All about Transportation Loans

Refugees being sponsored and resettled to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR), Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR), Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs may receive a Transportation Loan that is intended to assist them with covering the cost of their travel to Canada.

The Transportation Loan is issued by IRCC via their [Immigration Loans Program \(ILP\)](#).

Question

What does the Transportation Loan cover?

Answer

The Transportation Loan may cover the cost of the following pre-arrival services provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to sponsored refugees:

- Transportation costs from the refugee's place of residence in the country of asylum to a city from which the refugee may board their flight to Canada (the cost of overnight accommodation and meals before departure are also covered);
- The cost of travel to Canada by the most direct route at the most economical rate available;
- The cost of any taxes or tolls;
- The cost of any operational escorts provided by the IOM; and,
- In-land transportation costs which may include the cost of overnight accommodation, meals and ground transportation.

Types of expenses that are not covered by the Transportation Loan include, but are not limited to:

- Excess baggage fees;
- The cost of shipping personal and household effects;
- The cost of transporting pets;
- The cost of DNA testing and medical interventions to ensure the refugees are fit-to-fly;
- Pre-departure services covered by the [Interim Federal Health Program \(IFHP\)](#), such as the cost of the refugee's Immigration Medical Exams (IMEs), vaccinations and any medical escorts; and,
- The cost of transportation, accommodation and meals associated with the delivery of the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) program delivered by the IOM.

Question

Are Immigration Medical Examinations (IMEs) still covered by the Immigration Loans Program (ILP)?

Answer

The ILP no longer covers the cost of the refugee's Immigration Medical Exams (IMEs). The cost of IMEs are now covered by the [Interim Federal Health Program \(IFHP\)](#).

Question

When are sponsored refugees expected to repay the Transportation Loan, is interest charged on the loan and what is the repayment schedule?

Answer

Interest is no longer charged by IRCC on Transportation Loans.

Sponsored refugees are expected to begin repaying their Transportation Loan one year and one month after the issuance of the loan, but refugees can start paying off their loan before this date if they choose to do so.

For example, if the loan was issued on June 01, 2019, the first payment will be due on July 01, 2020.

The repayment schedule depends on the size of the loan:

- Loans up to but not exceeding **\$1,200** must be repaid within 36 months.
- Loans over **\$1,200** but not exceeding **\$2,400** must be repaid within 48 months.
- Loans over **\$2,400** but not exceeding **\$3,600** must be repaid within 60 months.
- Loans over **\$3,600** but not exceeding **\$4,800** must be repaid within 72 months.
- Loans over **\$4,800** must be repaid within 96 months.

Under special circumstances, IRCC may grant a deferral of payments for up to two years, a variation of payments, an extension to the repayment period or a waiver for refugees sponsored under the GAR and JAS programs.

To request any of these, refugees must contact IRCC's Collection Services at 1-800-667-7301 or by email at IRCC.FINCollections-RecouvrementsFIN.IRCC@cic.gc.ca



An updated fact sheet on Transportation Loans is available on the RSTP website [here](#)

The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 19-0345 (Linked with JAS Profile #19-0346)

LOCATION: Toronto, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 2

The family consists of a 20 year old sister and her 7 year old sister. The eldest sister is raising her younger sister and is the primary caregiver of her elderly grandmother and her brother (JAS profile #19-0346). The brother has impaired cognitive disabilities.

The eldest sister would like to attend English language classes but is unable to do so as she is responsible for her younger sister, grandmother and brother. A sponsor would be able to assist the eldest sister with practicing English, developing her computer skills, connecting her with the local community and providing social and informal emotional support to the family.

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 19-0591

LOCATION: London, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

FAMILY SIZE: 1

A 62 year old senior newcomer widow with health issues is living alone in Canada. The newcomer is a survivor of trauma and torture and is considered to be a Woman at Risk.

The newcomer has trouble getting to her medical appointments due to vision loss and a sponsor would be able to assist her by helping her attend her medical appointments and by helping her become more comfortable with the public transit system. The newcomer also feels isolated and a sponsor would be able to assist with overcoming this by helping her to integrate into her community by connecting her with local services, providing emotional support and practicing English with her.

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 19-0080 (Linked with JAS Profile #19-0081)

LOCATION: Calgary, AB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 1

The 37 year old newcomer arrived in Canada in March 2018 with her mother, sister-in-law and two nephews (JAS profile #19-0081).

The newcomer is a survivor of trauma and torture and has suffered from tremendous psychological stress and mental health issues.

She is responsible for taking care of her elderly mother, who also suffers from mental health issues and has physical health problems, along with her two younger nephews and shares the responsibility of running the household with her sister-in-law.

A sponsor would be able to provide the necessary emotional and social support to reduce the newcomer's feelings of isolation and help her access community resources, increasing her confidence and independence which could relieve some of the pressure of caring for her mother.

Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)** program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada due to:

- **Trauma from violence or torture;**
- **Medical disabilities;**
- **The effects of systemic discrimination; or,**
- **Being a large family unit (such as a single parent with several children).**

Under the JAS program, the government and private sponsors support refugees for up to 24 months, depending on the needs of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees receive income support from the Government of Canada. They are matched with a private sponsorship group to help them adjust to life in Canada with settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to their special needs. Others are converted into JAS cases after they arrive in Canada if it becomes clear that they need more support.

*** JAS Refugee Profiles can only be picked up by SAHs and their Constituent Groups (CGs)**



For more information about a particular JAS profile or the JAS Program, please [click here](#)

UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS!

French Workshops in January 2020

Comment préparer une demande de parrainage des réfugiés

Date: Samedi 11 janvier 2020

Heure: 13 h à 16 h HNE

Lieu: Bibliothèque centrale de North York, Salle 101 (premier étage), 5120, rue Yonge, Toronto, ON, M2N 5N9

Inscription: Accédez à

https://dossier_parrainage_refugies_toronto.eventbrite.ca ou communiquez avec Lidia Jarmasz au 1.877.290.1701, poste 2408, ou à ljarmasz@rstp.ca

French Webinars in January 2020

Pleins feux sur les responsabilités des groupes qui parrainent des réfugiés

Date: Mardi 7 janvier 2020

Heure: 13 h à 14 h HNE

Inscription:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4004254625102046987>

Don't Miss Our January 2020 Webinar Series!

An Introduction to Canada's Refugee Sponsorship Programs

Date: Tuesday January 07, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7381123111339669003>

The PSR Program: Who Can Sponsor and Who Can Be Sponsored

Date: Friday January 10, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5947209315626770955>

The PSR Program: How to Prepare and Submit a Successful Application Package

Date: Tuesday January 14, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3878160429105817611>

The PSR Program: Adding Dependents Post-Submission and Updating Applications

Date: Tuesday January 21, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3257748898505312011>

The PSR Program: Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Friday January 24, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5502908761470432011>

The PSR Program: Preparing for Month 13

Date: Wednesday January 29, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4160859162258216459>

Webinars with IRCC for SAHs in January 2020

IRCC's Case Review Process (Part 1)

Date: Monday January 13, 2020

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1352876892629043201>

IRCC's Case Review Process (Part 2)

Date: Monday January 20, 2020

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/820617607273849089>



Christina Hamer, the RSTP Trainer for Northern Alberta, delivering a workshop in Edmonton on December 04, 2019



Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada